

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:
Jim Menard, Area Management Biologist
Scott M. Kent, Asst. Area Management Biologist
Phone: (907) 443-5167
Fax: (907) 443-5893

Nome Area Office
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Nome, Alaska 99762
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SUBDISTRICT 4 COMMERCIAL SALMON FISHING SCHEDULE

Subdistrict 4, the Norton Bay Subdistrict, will now be on a commercial salmon fishing schedule of two 48-hour fishing periods per week. Commercial fishing will be allowed from 6 p.m. Monday until 6 p.m. Wednesday and from 6 p.m. Thursday until 6 p.m. Saturday. Commercial permit holders are limited to 100 fathoms of net and gillnets must have a mesh size of 6 inches or smaller.

Nine permit holders caught 790 silvers during the recent 48-hour fishing period in Norton Bay. So far this season 13 permit holders have caught nearly 4,200 silvers. A combination of decent fishing weather and a good silver run have the Norton Bay fishermen on track for a record silver harvest to go with their record harvest of 35,000 chum salmon this season.

The Inglutalik River tower crew has estimated over 5,000 silvers passing the tower this season. This is the third year NSEDC has operated the Inglutalik tower allowing the department to get daily escapement information. The department thanks NSEDC for their continued support of Norton Sound fisheries for nearly two decades.

Here are the silver escapement counts around Norton Sound:

Unalakleet River – 12,000 silvers
North River – 2,700 silvers
Shaktoolik River – 6,000 silvers
Kwiniuk River – 1,700 silvers
Solomon River – 80 silvers
Nome River – 370 silvers
Snake River – 50 silvers

At Pilgrim River, the crew has been unable to count for the last several days because of high water, but no silvers had been counted previously and sockeye counts had slowed to single digits with a final count of 12,000 sockeyes for the season.